

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OPIC-12 SCEM-02

INT-08 RSR-01 /146 W

----- 073909

R 010551 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9556

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENGR, IN, BD, BM

SUBJECT: OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION - TERRITORIAL WATERS IN BAY OF
BENGAL

REF: NEW DELHI 4879; DACCA 1816

SUMMARY: OPENING BAY OF BENGAL BY GOI AND BDG FOR OFFSHORE OIL
EXPLORATION RAISES QUESTIONS RE DELINEATION TERRITORIAL WATERS
OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES, ALSO BURMA. GUIDANCE REQUESTED.

1. WOULD APPRECIATE DELHI' S SENDING US COPY OF MAP CITED REFTTEL
ENTITLED " OFFSHORE AREAS OF INDIA," ACCOMPANYING GOI LETTER ON
FOREIGN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION INDIAN WATERS.

2. US FIRM CALARCAN, WHICH WAS ONE OF COMPANIES SENT GOI LETTER,
HAS SHOWED US MAP HERE IN CONNECTION THEIR PROPOSAL TO ENGAGE IN
EXPLORATION OFFSHORE BANGLADESH. MAP DEPICTS BOUNDARY LINES
DEFINING INDIAN AND BURMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. THAT FOR FORMER
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STRETCHES FROM WEST BENGAL- BANGLADESH BORDER IN SUNDERBANS SSE TOWARD LANDFALL ISLAND, NORTHERNMOST POINT OF INDIAN- OWNED ANDAMAN ISLANDS. LINE FOR BURMESE WATERS EXTENDS FROM THE NAF RIVER BOUNDARY WITH BANGLADESH, ALMOST DUE SOUTH TOWARD COCO ISLANDS, OWNED BY BURMA, A BIT TO NORTH OF ANDAMANS. THESE TWO LINES SQUEEZE IN TERRITORIAL WATERS WHICH BANGLADESH MIGHT CLAIM AND MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BDG. LATTER, HOWEVER, HAS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NEVER DEFINED ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS. QUESTIONS PUT TO BDG OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER HAVE SO FAR DRAWN ONLY VAGUE IMPRECISE REPLIES.

3. REQUEST ADVICE FROM DEPARTMENT (PLUS MAP) AS TO WHAT TERRITORIAL WATERS HAVE BEEN CLAIMED IN PAST FOR FORMER EAST PAKISTAN, ALSO WHETHER CLAIM HAS BEEN DISPUTED BY NEIGHBOR STATES.

4. WE HAVE INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE WHAT OFFSHORE AREAS HAVE BEEN SOUGHT FOR EXPLORATION PURPOSES IN BANGLADESH AND INDIAN WATERS BAY OF BENGAL BUT CAN CONCEIVE THAT TERRITORIAL- WATER LINE NOT AGREED BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND BOTH MIGHT MOVE TO AWARD TO APPLICANT COMPANIES EXPLORATION AREA WHICH DISPUTED BY NEIGHBOR.

5. BURMESE LINE DEPICTED ON CLARCAN MAP DENIES BURMA LARGE BODY OF TERRITORIAL WATER DUE WEST OF ARAKAN COASTLINE, PART OF WHICH ACCORDING TO MAP SUPPLIED US BY BRITISH (MEMO TO NEA/ PAB 9/8/72) FALLS IN CONCESSION AREA SOUGHT BY BDG BY OCCIDENTIAL PETROLEUM. COULD EMBASSY RANGOON ADVISE WHETHER THIS AREA HAS BEEN OPENED FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION BY GOB AND WHETHER ANY APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR IT? IS ARAKAN COAST AMONG 17 BLOCKS OF OFFSHORE AREAS ON WHICH BIDS INVITED RECENTLY FROM US, WEST GERMANY AND JAPAN (RANGOON JOINT WEEKS, 4/13/73)?
NEWBERRY

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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